

Please add new claims 18 and 19 as follows:

--18. A method for machining a component to form a plurality of holes in the component, comprising:
passing a laser beam through a diffraction grating to split the beam into plural laser beams; and
simultaneously forming a plurality of holes within a desired area of the component by irradiating the plural laser beams onto the component.

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A. 19. An apparatus for machining a component to form a plurality of holes in the component, comprising:
a support member for supporting the component;
a laser source;
a diffraction grating positioned with respect to the laser source such that a laser beam emitted from the laser source passes through the diffraction grating to split the laser beam into plural laser beams; and
a converging lens for individually converging the plural laser beams to irradiate the plural laser beams onto the component.---

REMARKS

Changes have been made to the specification and claims to better conform them to U.S. practice. In addition, claims 18 and 19 have been added to more adequately protect Applicants' invention.

In a separate communication enclosed herewith, the Examiner's approval is being requested for a drawing change to add the designation prior art to Figs. 15-18.



Early examination and allowance of the subject application are respectfully requested.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on June 13, 2000:

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Name of applicant, assignee or
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Signature

June 13, 2000

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Enclosure

Respectfully submitted,

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